

REMARKS

Claims 12 – 18 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 – 11 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendment Proper

Applicants submit that the entry of the above amendment is proper. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add any new issues which need further search and/or consideration. Applicants further submit that the entry of the amendments is proper since such amendments place the application in condition for allowance or, alternatively, place the application in better form for appeal.

Interview Summary

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended to their representative in a telephone interview dated March 22, 2007. In the interview, the Examiner clarified his interpretation of the applied art of Guodis, and an amendment to claim 12 was proposed by Applicants and discussed. The proposed amendment was formally submitted in Applicants' response dated April 6, 2007.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

In the final Office Action dated February 6, 2007, claims 1 – 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,092,225 issued to Gruodis et al. (hereinafter Gruodis). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Gruodis does not disclose each of the features of claims 1 – 11 and 19. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, claims 1 – 11 and 19 are hereby canceled, thereby rendering the above-noted rejection moot. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file the subject matter of one or more of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Additionally, in the final Office Action dated February 6, 2007, claims 12 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,872,797 issued to Theodoseau (hereinafter Theodoseau). However, in the Advisory Action dated April 30, 2007, the Examiner indicated that rejection of claims 12 – 18 has been withdrawn and that claims 12 – 18 are now allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the the above amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

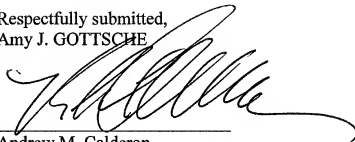
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's

Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy J. GOTTSCHÉ

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Robert W. Mueller, is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew M. Calderon
Reg. No. 38,093

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

May 7, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191